

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER DST, GOVT. OF INDIA)
PASCHIM BORAGAON, GARCHUK, GUWAHATI- 781035

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH (14th) MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) OF
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST),
GUWAHATI HELD ON 25.01.2021 (THROUGH VC)**

Members present in the meeting:

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Professor Abhay Karandikar
Director, IIT Kanpur | Chairperson |
| 2. | Professor (Dr.) Uday Bandyopadhyay
Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata | Member |
| 3. | Professor Mohan Chandra Kalita
Department of Biotechnology,
Gauhati University, Guwahati | Member |
| 4. | Professor Kamal Lochan Panigrahi
Department of Physics
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Anand Kamavisdar, Scientist - 'F',
Representative of Secretary,
Department of Science & Technology,
Government of India, New Delhi. | Member |
| 6. | Shri Manoj Kumar, Director (Finance)
Representative of Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser,
Department of Science & Technology, Government of India,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 7. | Professor Ashis Kr Mukherjee,
Director, IASST | Member Secretary |
| 8. | Dr. Diganta Goswami
Registrar, IASST, Guwahati | Special Invitee (with permission from Chair) |
| 9. | Shri Pradyut Borkataki
FAO, IASST, Guwahati | Special Invitee (with permission from Chair) |

Leave of absentia granted to:

1. Professor P. J. Handique, Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University.
2. Mr. Hemen Das, IAS, Secretary, Science and Technology Deptt, Govt. of Assam.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/1.1: Welcome to members, introduction to new Director of IASST and remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council.

At the very outset Prof. Ashis Kr, Mukherjee, Director IASST and Member-Secretary of GC on behalf of all the staff of IASST welcomed Professor Abhay Karandikar, Chairman, GC and distinguished members to 14th meeting of the Governing council of IASST. He then requested the Hon'ble Chairman to start the proceedings of the meeting. The Chairman welcomed all the members to the 14th GC meeting and Prof. A. K. Mukherjee, the new Director of IASST and expressed his view that the chairman and GC members look forward to work with him and wished that under his leadership the institute will go to the next level as there is immense potential of the institute particularly due to the support given by the DST and the ministry which also fully back the institute located at north east. The chairman hoped that Prof. Mukherjee, the new Director will take the advantage of the support from the ministry and assured that the Chairman and all the members of GC will give their full support in the endeavour. The Chairman also welcomed other members who have participated in the meeting and took up the agenda for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/1.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 15th February, 2020.

The minutes of the 13th meeting of the Governing Council were circulated to the members earlier for comments, if any. No comments had been received on the minutes. The minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/1.3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per minutes of the 13th meeting of the Governing Council.

The Director, IASST and Member Secretary of GC made a presentation on action taken on the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. Accordingly, the Chairman and members of the GC noted the action taken report of each item of 13th meeting of GC and expressed their satisfaction on action taken as per their recommendation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/1.4: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the Apex Review Committee on review of DST Autonomous institutes- IASST in reference to the communication dated 11th September 11, 2020 received from DST through email.

The GC while noting the action taken on the recommendations as presented by the Director, IASST the Chairman desired to know about the extramural grant received for different projects for the last two years i.e., 2019-20 and 2020-21 which was stated to be about Rs. 12.00 crores. The Chairman appreciated the effort made by the available limited number of scientists in position at the institute.

The GC also noted about the creation of the Corpus fund of the institute maintained through a separate bank account out of the revenue generated by the institute which is allowed as per GFR provision.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/1.5: Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 13th meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on 29th December, 2020 through Video conferencing.

The Governing Council after discussion approved the recommendations of the meeting of 13th Finance committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.1: Construction of a new Women Hostel in the IASST campus

The Director, IASST explained the reason and necessity to set up a Women hostel of 100 seat capacity in the institute campus. The GC approved the proposal to construct a new hostel building for accommodation of at least 100 number of women students/Research scholars/Fellows/Women scientists with a day care facility for their children along with acceptance of the recommendations of the 13th Finance committee meeting held on 29-12-2020 to submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the A.I. Division, Department of Science & Technology for obtaining administrative and financial approval for the same.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.2: Provision of two designated Head of Divisions (HOD)

The GC considered the proposal to designate position of Head of Research Divisions, one for Division of Life Sciences, comprised of Traditional Knowledge based Drug Development & Delivery, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research programs, and the other Head for Division of Physical Sciences comprising of Basic and Applied Plasma Physics, Advanced Material Science, and Mathematical and Computational Science programs. The GC approved the proposal with the recommendation that these two Heads of the Divisions may be designated from the existing faculty positions.

Manner of Selection and Tenure of the Head of the Division:

The Head of the Division will be selected and appointed by the Director from amongst the faculty members of IASST not below the rank of Associate Professor-II after discussion with all the faculty members of the concerned division and giving preference to the seniority of the faculty members. The appointment of the head of the division may be ratified by the GC. The tenure of Head of the division will be for two (02) years and depending on the circumstances that may be extended by another year by the Director and ratification by the GC. No additional post will be created for this purpose or remuneration will be paid to the Head of the Division.

The Power and Functions of Head of the Division are:

1. The Divisional Head would exercise leadership, demonstrate vision and empower others to execute an agreed-upon departmental strategy and organise and coordinate teaching and research works in the Division.
2. The Head of the Division shall convene and preside over the meetings concerning activities (Academic, Research etc.) of the Division and shall function under the general supervision of the Director of the Institute.
3. Shall implement the decision of the Institute/Board/committees concerning the Division.
4. Shall be the in-charge of the Divisional Library, if any.
5. Supervise and conduct all examinations of the Division.
6. Frame the time table in conformity with the allocation of the teaching work made by the Division.
7. Maintain discipline in the class room (wherever applicable) and Laboratories through the faculty members.
8. Assign to the scientists/faculty members in the Division such duties as may be necessary for proper functioning of the Division.
9. Assign work to exercise control over the non-teaching staff in the Division.
10. To keep records of continuous internal evaluation of class examinations, attendance etc. of the students as prescribed, and to forward the records of such evaluation in time to the competent authority for necessary action.
11. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Director of the institute.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.3 and AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.7: Proposal for establishment of a Research and Development (R&D) Cell at IASST, and Proposal for framing IASST Intellectual Property Right Policy (IPRP) and establishment of IPR Cell (IPRC)

The GC took up both these agenda items together and considered the proposals. The GC approved the proposal for establishment of a Research and Development (R&D) Cell in the institute. The GC further decided that instead of establishment of a separate IPR Cell (IPRC), the activities of the IPR issues may be brought within the purview of the R&D Cell. The activities of the Cell will be looked after and managed by a designated Head to be appointed by the Director.

The GC also recommended that services from some knowledgeable person in the form of consultant or on contract basis may be obtained for issues relating to IPR, MoUs, Licensing agreement issues etc.

The responsibility of the R&D cell will be to lead, coordinate and look after the research and development activities in the institute defining their strategies, formulating action plans, obtaining fund for the projects and management. The R & D cell will function in close coordination with the Incubation Centre, IPR management and Entrepreneurship Development Programs of the institute.

Functionalities of Research & Development Cell:

The functions and responsibilities of Research and Development (R&D) Cell will be as follows:

1. To identify the potential areas of research in various disciplines and emerging areas and form faculty groups/team based on their specialization.
2. To forward research proposals/projects to various funding agencies.
3. To develop institutional and interinstitutional multi-disciplinary research projects.
4. To coordinate the research activities among the various disciplines/thrust areas of the institute.
5. To aid in planning for resource mobilization through industry interaction, consultancy and extramural funding.
6. Scrutinize the student's project proposals and send them to various funding agencies for financial support and recommend the suitable projects.
7. Follow and execute the strategies as developed by the R&D cell from time to time.
8. The R&D cell will also look after all the issues of IPR Policy of IASST along with providing a single window reference system for all IPR issues relating to intellectual property generated at the Institute and to inculcate IPR culture amongst the scientists/faculty and students. The cell will also extend support to defend and protect the intellectual property rights obtained by the Institute against any unauthorized infringement.

The specific broad objectives of the IPR Policy to be developed and implemented will be:

1. To promote more research and innovation within the institute through a balanced IP management approach.
2. To provide more freedom and autonomy to researchers for IP creation and management, in order to create a better eco-system for innovation and entrepreneurship.
3. To promote collaborations between the institute and industry through better clarity on IP ownership and IP licensing.
4. To promote bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for technology transfer mechanisms.
5. To promote intra-academia and inter-university/institute research collaborations.

2.3.1 Appointment of Head, R&D Cell:

There shall be a Head of Research & Development (R&D) Cell to be designated by the Director from amongst the faculty members of IASST not below the rank of Associate Professor-II for a period of two (02) years from the date of assuming the charge. The term may be extended for another one (01) year by the Director. The Head, R&D shall perform duties in addition to his/her normal duties as a faculty of IASST. No additional No additional post will be created for this purpose or remuneration will be paid to the designated Head, R&D Cell.

2.3.2. Powers and Functions of the Head, R&D Cell:

- 2.3.2.1. The Head, R&D shall be responsible for planning of research activities of IASST in consultation with Divisional Heads and Director.
- 2.3.2.2. Head, R&D shall ensure that the extramural and/or in-house research projects to be submitted to various funding agencies by the faculty of the IASST are in order.
- 2.3.2.3. Head, R&D shall co-ordinate all research activities of the IASST.
- 2.3.2.4. Head, R&D shall be the ex-Officio Chairperson for all selection committees for selection of research positions (Research Fellows/ Project Fellows/ Associates) sanctioned by the funding agency.
- 2.3.2.5. Head, R&D shall implement and monitor the progress of research projects, and prepare an annual report of research progress.
- 2.3.2.6. Head, R& D shall take steps for promoting Industry- Academy interaction for augmenting translational research.
- 2.3.2.7. Head, R&D shall also take care of R&D consultancy projects undertaken by the faculty of IASST.
- 2.3.2.8. Head, R&D shall also perform duties as assigned to him by the Director.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.4: Guidelines for Extramural Research Projects

The GC considered and praised the proposal for framing of guidelines for extramural project development, submission and fund utilization in the institute which includes the followings and approved the same.

1. Procedures for formulation, scrutiny, processing, sanction, implementation and evaluation of the institute extramural research projects,
2. Fixation of criteria for eligibility of proposals for consideration, eligibility of principal investigators, type of assistance available, preparation and submission of proposal,
3. Development of procedure for processing a project for approval, project screening committee/ scientific panel, sanction, implementation and monitoring, proposal for additional grants & extension of period, transfer of principal investigator, as per the rule of funding agency.
4. All proposals and reports for initial sanction, requests for extension of period and additional grants progress reports, shall be routed through the R&D Cell.
5. The PI will be required to submit the expenditure statement periodically as per the format.

The GC further recommended that while implementing the Extramural Research Projects, the existing guidelines of DST in regard to engagement/appointment of JRF/SRF should also be included in the guidelines along with the Terms and Conditions of the funding agency, if applicable, otherwise emoluments will be as per the latest guidelines of DST.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.5: Proposal for establishment of a Centre for Interdisciplinary Research.

The proposal to establish a Centre for Interdisciplinary research at IASST to bring together researchers from multiple disciplines that will lead to large working groups in selected areas of R&D was considered by the GC and approved the same. Some of the multidisciplinary approaches but not limited to of this Centre would be

- (i) drug discovery & drug delivery,
- (ii) disease diagnosis,

- (iii) impact of climate change on biodiversity,
- (iv) bio-remediation of environment pollutants.

The GC also suggested that the scientists from different divisions will be involved in the centre for interdisciplinary research for which research proposals can be submitted jointly. However, no additional post will be created for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and this centre will be run by the existing faculties of IASST.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.6: Proposal for renaming of discipline of “Traditional Knowledge Based Drug Development and Delivery” to “Drug Discovery and Disease Diagnosis”

The proposal to rename the discipline/programme of “Traditional Knowledge-based Drug Development & Delivery” as “Drug discovery and Disease Diagnosis” in order to cover wider areas of research in the area with a broader mandate and outcome as well as to attract greater funding was considered by the GC and after a through discussion it was recommended to **rename the discipline as “Traditional and Modern Drug Discovery and Disease Diagnosis”**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.7: Proposal for framing IASST Intellectual Property Right Policy (IPRP) and establishment of IPR Cell (IPRC)

This agenda was considered together with the Agenda No. GC.14/2021/1/2.3 while considering the proposal for Establishment of Research and Development (R&D) Cell and it was decided to include these activities within the purview of R&D cell.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.8: Proposal for re-constitution of Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)

The GC desired that the Director, IASST will bring proposals in writing suggesting the names after collecting few from the members as well in order to fill up the vacant positions of the members of the SAC. The Director will internally propose and discuss with the Chairman and will send the list of scientists to him for approval and/or further advice.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/2.9: Proposal for re-constitution of Finance Committee (FC) of IASST

The GC advised the Director, IASST to discuss with Chairman after submitting a list of proposed members of FC for approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO. GC.14/2021/1/3: Reporting items with the permission of Chair
3.1. Technology transfer on ‘Production of antioxidant rich beverage from black rice’

Director, IASST apprised the GC that a technique has been developed to produce antioxidant rich alcoholic beverage resembling red wine from black rice of Manipur. It contains 12-14% alcohol by volume (ABV) and tint of 0.98 showing its similarity with red wine. The total phenolic content and flavonoid contents are 372.37 µg/ml and 0.95 mg/ml, respectively expressed as Gallic acid and Quercetin equivalents which reveal its potential antioxidant properties. This is also supported by DPPH free radical scavenging activity which was found to be 1.15 mg/ml of ascorbic acid equivalent. Based upon its similarities with red wine, a patent has been filed (Patent Application No. 201931019623, 2019). Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has funded a project under Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE) scheme for optimization of the process. The process was scaled up for fermentation up to 33 liters besides conducting sensory analysis for organoleptic properties and market potential. Also, the beverage has been tested by excise department, Government of Assam for biochemical properties and categorized as wine. This technology after obtaining approval of the Chairman, GC has been transferred to a company named, ‘The Golden

Beverages' for production and marketing. Accordingly, a MoU has been signed between IASST and the company on 21st December, 2020. The production will be scaled up to 200 liters at the IASST's incubation centre, 'BIONEST'. The GC approved and praised this endeavour of technology transfer.

A.O.B:

3.2. Fixation of Qualification requirements for the post of Director, IASST (revised):

The Director, IASST placed an additional agenda item with permission from GC proposing the following qualification requirements for the post of Director of IASST in the light of the advertisement of Director of other Research Institutes of DST, for example, Bose Institute, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, JNCSR, Bangalore etc for consideration and approval:

Educational and other qualification:

Essential: An eminent scholar with doctorate in any branch of Physical, Chemical, Mathematical or Life Sciences with constantly good academic record.

Desirable:

1. Doctoral and/or post-doctoral research experience in the theme areas of research carried out in the Institute, viz, advanced materials science, basic and applied plasma Physics, biodiversity, biophysics, computational sciences, drug discovery and/or disease diagnosis, environmental sciences, medicinal plants including traditional medicine, microbial biotechnology, protein chemistry, mathematical sciences, medicinal chemistry/natural product chemistry, molecular biology & biotechnology, sericulture.
2. Evidence of high professional eminence by way of recognitions like fellowship of academies, national/ international awards in science, having proven track of research accomplishment as is evident by original high standard research publications, patents.
3. Experience in running and management of major research projects and/or administrative experience.
4. Capacity to provide leadership and motivation to a group of highly performing research professionals.

The GC considered and approved the same and suggested that the revised educational qualification be sent to DST for approval.


3.3. Byelaws for Faculty Entrepreneurship program:

The GC suggested that while developing the Faculty Entrepreneurship programme, standard modules of Faculty Entrepreneurship program followed at IITs and other concerned educational/Research institutes may also be gone through. A suitable model (Society formation or Section 8A non-profit company) with guidelines may be framed for further discussion with GC members.

There being no other item for discussions, the meeting ended with thanks to the chair.


Chairman,
Governing Council, IASST

Chairman,
Governing Council, IASST


Member Secretary,
Governing Council, IASST